



Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget

18 VAC 140-20 – Regulations Governing the Practice of Social Work
Department of Health Professions
January 11, 2008

Summary of the Proposed Amendments to Regulation

The Board of Social Work (Board) proposes to amend its regulations so that licensed social workers will have to complete 15 hours of continuing education, rather than the 30 hours that are currently required, during each biennial renewal cycle.

Result of Analysis

The benefits likely exceed the costs for all proposed changes.

Estimated Economic Impact

Currently, both licensed social workers and licensed clinical social workers are required to complete 30 hours of continuing education during each biennium; 20 of these 30 hours must currently be earned through “formally organized learning activities”. The Board proposes to amend this requirement so that licensed social workers will only have to complete 15 hours of continuing education with 10 of those hours earned through “formally organized learning activities”. The Department of Health Professions (DHP) reports that this change is being made to recognize the differing levels of required skills and independence that the jobs of licensed social workers and licensed clinical social workers demand. Licensed social workers do case work and are supervised while licensed clinical social workers practice independently.

This proposed regulatory change will benefit licensed social workers who will likely be able to reduce their costs for continuing education (class fees, book fees, the value of their time spent on educational activities, etc) by approximately one half.

Businesses and Entities Affected

DHP reports that the Board currently licenses 379 social workers. These individuals, as well as any individuals who seek licensure as social workers in the future, will be affected by this proposed regulatory change.

Localities Particularly Affected

No locality will be disproportionately affected by this proposed regulatory action.

Projected Impact on Employment

This regulatory action will likely have no impact on employment in the Commonwealth.

Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property

This regulatory action will likely have no affect on the use or value of private property in the Commonwealth.

Small Businesses: Costs and Other Effects

Small businesses in the Commonwealth are unlikely to incur any costs on account of this regulatory action.

Small Businesses: Alternative Method that Minimizes Adverse Impact

Small businesses in the Commonwealth are unlikely to incur any costs on account of this regulatory action.

Real Estate Development Costs

This regulatory action will likely have no affect on real estate development costs in the Commonwealth.

Legal Mandate

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 2.2-4007.H of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 36 (06). Section 2.2-4007.H requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to

be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. Further, if the proposed regulation has adverse effect on small businesses, Section 2.2-4007.H requires that such economic impact analyses include (i) an identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the regulation; (ii) the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for small businesses to comply with the regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparing required reports and other documents; (iii) a statement of the probable effect of the regulation on affected small businesses; and (iv) a description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the regulation. The analysis presented above represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.